

Stormwater Best Management Practices

HOMEOWNERS



Surprisingly, homes can be a significant contributor of pollutants reaching our streams and lakes. Every homeowner must take steps to reduce the amount of pollutants leaving their property and entering the storm drain system.

There are many actions, or Best Management Practices (BMPs), that can be taken to reduce water pollution from your home and property. Commonly used BMPs include:

Irrigation

Avoid over watering. Over watering can lead to runoff reaching storm drains. Irrigation runoff can contain fertilizers, pesticides or other materials that are harmful to lakes and streams. Adjust irrigation times seasonally, watch for runoff and overspray, and turn off irrigation systems during storms.



Fertilizer, Pesticide and Herbicide Application

Do not over-apply fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. Follow the manufacturer's application instructions. Excessive application of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus can impact aquatic habitats by decreasing oxygen levels necessary for aquatic species. Sweep up spills and areas of over-application. Always store these chemicals in covered and contained areas.

Paved Areas

Regularly Sweep paved areas to remove sediments and other debris. Never wash debris, spills, leaves, or sediments into storm drains.

Household Hazardous Waste

Always store waste materials in covered and contained areas. Properly dispose of paint, cleaners, chemicals, fuels, batteries, pesticides that contain potentially hazardous ingredients. For proper disposal methods and collection centers, refer to: www.deq.utah.gov/ProgramsServices/programs/waste/recycling/index.htm#hhw



Vehicle Maintenance

Contain leaks from vehicles. Use drip pans when servicing vehicles and clean vehicle fluid drips and spills using "dry clean up" methods and properly dispose of waste materials. Take used oil to recycle centers, refer to: <http://deq.utah.gov/ProgramsServices/programs/waste/usedoil/basics/CollectionCenters.htm>

Vehicle Washing

Avoid discharging vehicle wash water and detergents into the storm drains. If possible, wash vehicles on grass or graveled areas that will retain wash water.

Illicit Discharges

Never dump anything into the storm drain. If you see anyone dumping to a storm drain, call the local Health Department or the Utah Dept. of Environmental Quality's spill response hotline at (801) 536-4123.

Pet Wastes

Animal wastes can contaminate waters through the introduction of nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, as well as microbial pathogens. Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste before it has a chance to enter storm drains.